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SECURITY INFORMATION

10 November 1951

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Current Intelligence
Assistant Director for Collection and Dissemination

SUBJECT: Memoranda of Conversation Between Foreign Officials
and U. S. Government Officials

1. Reference is made to the memorandum of 29 August from AD/CI to AD/CD on "Memos of Conversations between Foreign Officials and U. S. Government Officials" which was referred to me for action by AI/CD.

2. This memorandum requesting routine receipt of memos of conversations between foreign officials and U. S. Government officials presumably includes the White House, the State Department, the Defense Department, and ECA.

3. I wish to report that I have discussed this matter in the State Department and the Department recognizes its obligation to provide, on a routine basis, access to and receipt of such memos of conversation within their control. The view there is that perhaps 5% of such memos of conversation may be of such a nature as to not permit dissemination outside the Department. With respect to the remainder, making these memos of conversation available is only dependent upon the establishment of adequate processing and reproduction facilities to meet the demands, both within the Department and the other agencies. I am given to understand that within three months the Department will be in a position to commit itself formally on this and deliver but that it does not wish to make a commitment prior to its capacity to deliver. The question of how such memos of conversation are to be used in publications etc. is a separate question which will be gone into by CI and State when it arises.

4. I will report as soon as possible regarding the White House, Defense, and ECA memos of conversation.

JAMES G. REBER
Assistant Director
Intelligence Coordination

cc: EA/DCI
AD/IE
AD/ER

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Office Memorandum • UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT

TO : Assistant Director
for Collection and Dissemination DATE: 29 August 1951

FROM : Assistant Director for Current Intelligence

SUBJECT: Memos of Conversations between Foreign Officials and
US Government Officials

1. Conversations between officials of foreign governments and US officials in Washington often cover matters in the economic, military, political and cultural fields which are of great interest to CIA.

2. In most cases memoranda of conversation are prepared by US officials following their discussions with representatives of foreign countries. On a few occasions CIA has requested and received memoranda of conversations -- in the majority of cases CIA has been unable to obtain them.

3. The procurement of memos of conversation is complicated because the discussions are ordinarily held in policy offices of the government (e.g., Assistant Secretary of State, ARA, Inter-American Defense Board, Office of the Secretary of Defense, etc.). Normal collection facilities of CIA and other intelligence agencies have not been successful to date in their dealings with agencies of this type.

4. It is requested, therefore, that O/CD take suitable action to accomplish either or both of the following objectives:

a. Arrange for routine dissemination to CIA of memos of conversation believed to be of intelligence interest;

b. Establish necessary collection channels in order that memos of conversation may be obtained with a minimum expenditure of time and effort when requested by CIA offices.

KINGMAN DOUGLASS

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